

### **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

#### **Listing of Claims**

1. (original) A composition comprising at least two of the following:
  - (a) ximenynic acid; and
  - (b) niacin, alpha-lipoic acid, or a mushroom extract,wherein the composition is formulated as a cosmetic blend.
2. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is comprised in a cosmetic vehicle.
3. (original) The composition of claim 2, wherein the cosmetic vehicle comprises an emulsion, a cream, a lotion, a solution, an anhydrous base, a gel, or an ointment.
4. (original) The composition of claim 3, wherein the emulsion is an oil-in-water emulsion or a water-in-oil emulsion.
5. (original) The composition of claim 3, wherein the solution is an aqueous solution or hydro-alcoholic solution.
6. (original) The composition of claim 3, wherein the anhydrous base is a lipstick or a powder.
7. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is comprised in an anti-aging product or a moisturizing product.
8. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is adapted for application at least once a day during use.
9. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is adapted for application at least twice a day during use.

10. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition comprises from about 0.001% to about 5.0% by weight of ximenynic acid.
11. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition comprises from about 0.0001% to about 5.0% by weight of niacin.
12. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition comprises from about 0.001% to about 5.0% by weight of alpha-lipoic acid.
13. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition comprises from about 0.001% to about 5.0% by weight of the mushroom extract.
14. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is chemically compatible.
15. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein mushroom extract is matsutake mushroom extract or shiitake mushroom extract.
16. (original) The composition of claim 15, wherein the composition comprises:
  - (a) ximenynic acid;
  - (b) niacin;
  - (c) alpha-lipoic acid;
  - (d) matsutake mushroom extract; and
  - (e) shiitake mushroom extract.
17. (original) A method of treating or preventing damaged skin comprising topical application of a composition comprising at least two of the following:
  - (a) ximenynic acid; and
  - (b) niacin, alpha-lipoic acid, or a mushroom extract,wherein the composition is formulated as a cosmetic blend.

18. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein the composition is topically applied in an amount effective to improve the barrier properties of the skin.
19. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein the composition is topically applied in an amount effective to increase the microcirculation of the skin.
20. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein the composition is topically applied in an amount effective to stimulate the immune system.
21. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein the composition is topically applied in an amount effective to reduce the damage caused by ultraviolet light.
22. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein the composition is topically applied in an amount effective to even out pigmentation of the skin.
23. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein the damaged skin comprises aged skin, nutritionally compromised skin, or environmentally damaged skin.
24. (original) The method of claim 23, wherein the environmentally damaged skin comprises skin damaged by UV light, chronic sun exposure, environmental pollutants, chemicals, disease pathologies, or smoking.
25. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein mushroom extract is matsutake mushroom extract or shiitake mushroom extract.
26. (original) The method of claim 25, wherein the composition comprises:
  - (a) ximenynic acid;
  - (b) niacin;
  - (c) alpha-lipoic acid;
  - (d) matsutake mushroom extract; and
  - (e) shiitake mushroom extract.

27. (original) A composition comprising:
- (a) a compound that stimulates microcirculation through the skin;
  - (b) a compound that stimulates the immune system;
  - (c) a compound that reduces ultraviolet light or sun exposure damage;
  - (d) a compound that evens out the pigmentation of the skin; and
  - (e) a compound that improves the barrier properties of the skin,
- wherein the composition is formulated as a cosmetic blend.
28. (original) The composition of claim 27, wherein the compound that stimulates microcirculation through the skin is niacin or capsaicin, the compound that stimulates the immune system is shiitake mushroom extract, the compound that reduces ultraviolet light or sun exposure damage is alpha lipoic acid, the compound that evens out pigmentation of the skin matsutake mushroom extract, and the compound that improves the barrier properties of the skin is ximenynic acid.